



Vernal_Comments, BLM_UT <blm_ut_vernal_comments@blm.gov>

Fw: December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

1 message

Patty McCourt <pjmccourt@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Patty McCourt <pjmccourt@yahoo.com>
To: "UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov" <UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov>

Mon, Jul 24, 2017 at 3:52 PM

Just making sure I have the write email address.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Patty McCourt <pjmccourt@yahoo.com>
To: blm_UT-Vernal_comments@blm.gov <blm_UT-Vernal_comments@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017, 3:43:43 PM MDT
Subject: December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Re: UT1217-049, UT1217-069 and UT1217-070, which will be referred to as 49, 69 and 70.

I currently work in the recreation field at Flaming Gorge where my job involves orienting visitors and making suggestions regarding their vacation journey. Because of its outstanding geological vistas, I regularly send tourists down the Flaming Gorge-Uintas Scenic Byway with a hiking/paddling stop at Red Fleet State Park followed by camping at Steinaker State Park. Parcel 49 straddles our designated scenic byway, is close to the geological features, which greet people to Red Fleet, and is adjacent to Steinaker. The idea of interfering with the views of these majestic geological features, including Red Mt., and interfering with the major destinations of Vernal's tourism industry is not acceptable.

Additionally, as a former Interpretive Ranger at Dinosaur National Monument (DNM) and a nature lover, one of my favorite recreation spots is Jensen because it is here that the scenery, wildlife and river call me. I regularly walk my dogs down to the river across from DNM, participate in bird counts along both sides of the river in both parcels 69 and 70, attend Utah Department of Natural Resources *Eagle Days* where telescopes are located near parcel 69 and kayak the Green River passing both parcels 69 and 70. If mineral extraction were to occur on either of these parcels, the soundscape, viewshed and night sky would be detrimentally altered, thus interfering with some of the reasons that several hundred thousand tourists are drawn to DNM annually.

Finally, as someone who once worked with the captive breeding and release programs of cranes with the International Crane Foundation, it is certainly a pleasure to witness cranes in flight or grazing in the wild. The farm field located on parcel 70 is a lengthy stopover for roughly a third of migrating Sandhill Cranes in Utah and some of these actually stay through the winter. Jensen residents report seeing more than 1,000 cranes during peak migration at this location. Oil & gas activity is not compatible with the wildlife habitat this location offers.

I do hope you will protect rather than drill the special places near my home.

Patty McCourt
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